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Tropilaelaps, a New Genus of Mite
From the Philippines (Laelaptidae [*s. lat.*]: Acarina)

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Specimens of the new mite here described were first found by Mr. G. Pangga, Entomologist, Bureau of Plant Industry, in a collection of dead honey bees from the Batangas Apiaries at Mataas-na-Kahoy, Lipa. Subsequently, the same mite was taken from field rats nesting near the beehives. The mite represents an undescribed genus of Laelaptidae (*sens. lat.*).

TROPILAELAPS, new genus

Characteristics of the new genus are: The setaceous appearance of the dorsal and ventral surfaces of both sexes; the fringed labrum of both sexes; the peritremalia surrounding coxa IV of the male; the modification of the movable chela of the male into a long, sinuous spermatodactyl; the simple palpal claw; and the separation of the holoventral plate from the anal plate in the male.

Type species: *Tropilaelaps clareae,* new species. Monobasic.

Tropilaelaps clareae, new species. Figures 15, 16.

FEMALE: Gnathosoma almost completely hidden from above by body; tectum not seen; labrum fringed; corniculi small, inconspicuous; ventral setae of varying lengths, as figured; deutosternal groove with a row of seven teeth, but teeth may have from one to four divisions; chelae short, not strongly toothed, without pilus dentilus; palpus strongly reticulate, with long setae; palpal claw simple, not forked. Tritosternum stout, bifurcate, fringed distally. Sternal plate reticulate on anterior half only, longer than wide, with inner sclerotic thickening, giving the plate its characteristic appearance; presternal area only slightly delineated from sternal plate; sternal, metasternal, and genital setae long, subequal. Metasternal plates reduced. Epigynial plate long, narrow, blunt posteriorly,

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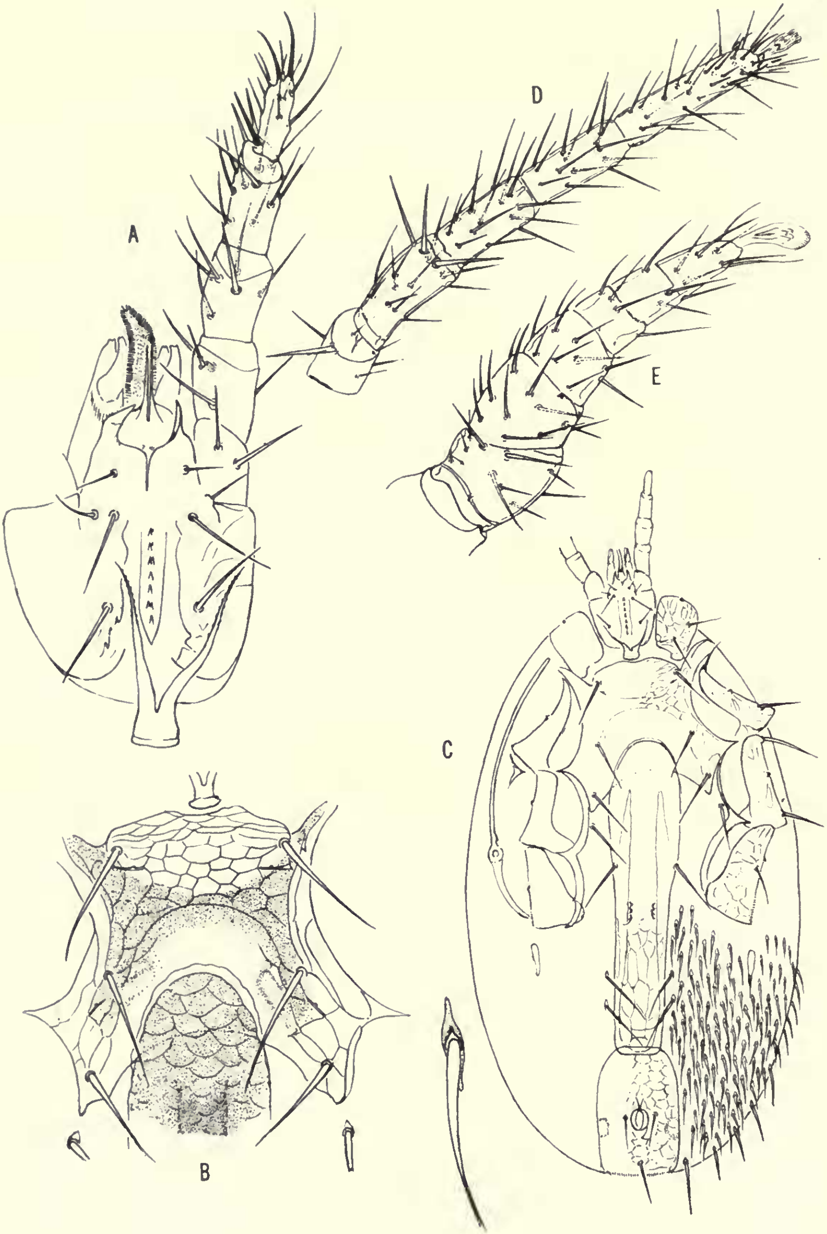

FIG. 15. *Tropilaelaps clareae*, new gen. and sp. Female: A, venter of gnathosoma; B, sternal plate and anterior portion of epigynial plate; C, venter; D, leg I; E, leg II.

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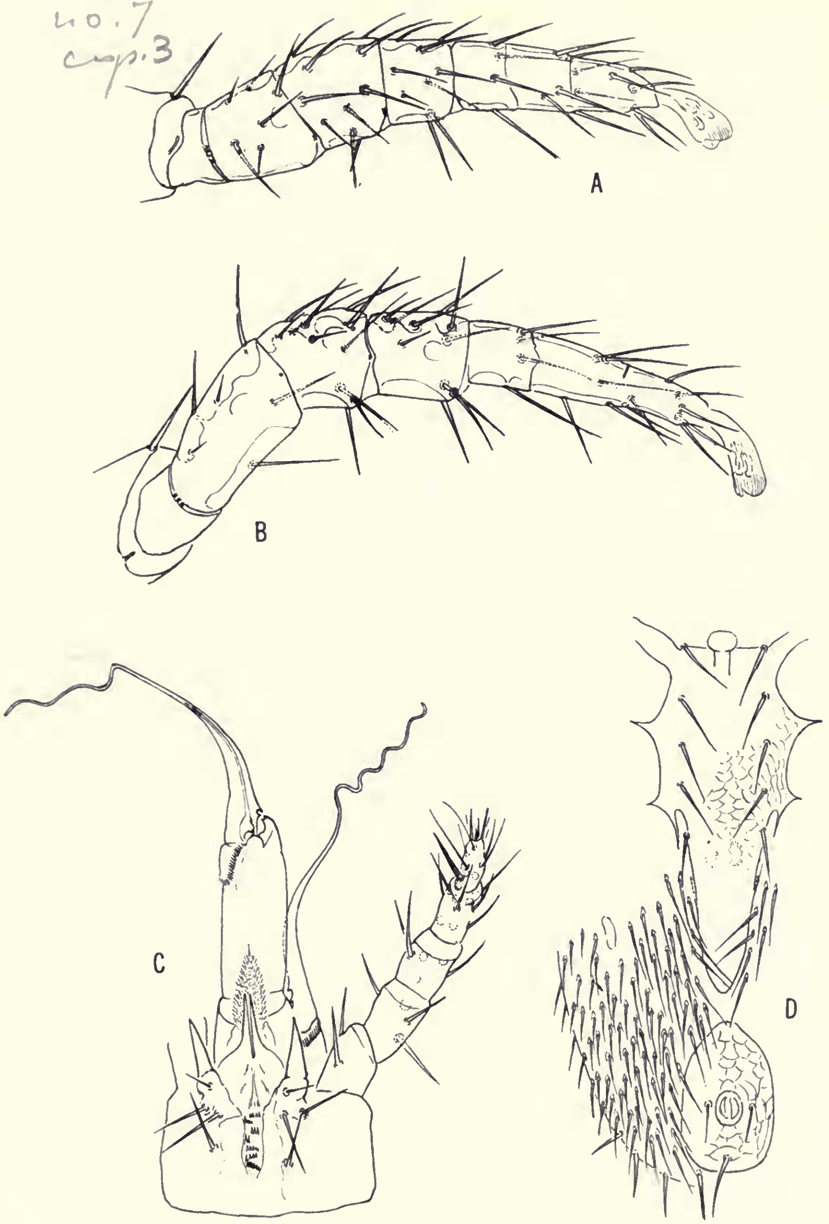

FIG. 16. *Tropilaelaps clareae*, new gen. and sp. Female: A, leg III; B, leg IV. Male: C, venter of gnathosoma; D, venter.

reticulate throughout, overlapping anal plate, with longitudinal inner sclerotic thickening; with a single pair of setae. Anal plate large, longer than wide, truncate anteriorly and posteriorly, reticulate, and with paired anal setae somewhat shorter than posterior anal seta. Metapodal plates small, narrow. Coxae, especially I and IV, reticulate; all coxal setae long, those on coxae II and III strongest. Leg setae as figured; claws reduced. Peritreme extending anteriorly to coxa I; peritremalia extending posteriorly to edge of coxa IV. Ventral setae adjacent to epigynial and anal plates numerous and with elongate sclerotized bases. Dorsal plate 976 μ long by 528 μ wide, with numerous short, strong setae; posterior marginal setae long and strong.

MALE: Gnathosoma as figured; tectum rounded; labrum fringed; corniculi stronger than in female; deutosternal groove with seven rows of teeth, each row containing from two to six teeth. Chelicerae toothed, movable chela modified into a long, sinuous spermatodactyl; palpus strongly reticulate, with simple palpal claw. Holoventral and anal plates reticulate, separated; holoventral plate narrowing posteriorly, with five pairs of setae; anal plate blunt posteriorly but narrowing anteriorly, the paired setae smaller than the posterior single seta. Metapodal plates small, elongate. Ventral body and coxal setae as in female. Dorsal plate 880 μ long by 512 μ wide, covered with short setae; posterior marginal setae long and stronger.

Holotype.—Female, *ex* field rats, Mataas-na-Kahoy, Lipa, Batangas, Philippine Islands, collected by G. Pangga January 7, 1961; in Chicago Natural History Museum.

Allotype.—Male, with the same data, in the same institution.

Paratypes.—One female, one male with same data as holotype, in the United States National Museum; two females with data as above, in the Institute of Acarology, Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio; three females and one male with the same data, in the Division of Malaria, Philippine Department of Health, Manila.

This species is dedicated to Dr. Clare R. Baltazar, Senior Research Scientist, Bureau of Plant Industry, Manila, in recognition of her leadership in Philippine systematic entomology.